

make it harmonize with the Scripture account of the matter. If, for "some rocks," we substitute *through the rocky strata*, and to the "sea-waters" add *received into the abyss*, it would amount to nearly the same thing. It was an ancient opinion, mentioned in Plato's Phædon, that there is a flux and reflux of the waters of our globe, a kind of systole and diastole, into and from Tartarus or the great abyss, which produce seas, lakes, rivers, and fountains.\* That all the causes mentioned above contribute to the formation of the rivers that water the earth, especially the clouds and vapours that gather round the tops of the mountains and high hills, I am ready to admit; at the same time I must contend that the principal reservoir from which they are supplied has its station *under the earth*.

Writers on this subject seem to speak as if the source of all rivers was in mountainous or hilly countries; but though the mightiest rivers of the globe originate in such situations, there is a very large number of considerable streams whose source is not particularly elevated, especially in the flat parts of England; and there are few rivers that do not receive some supply from lesser ones, having their rise in low grounds, in their course. The practice, in all countries, of digging wells indicates a downward source of water.

In the Mosaic account of the deluge it is stated, that the waters prevailed above the tops of all the mountains fifteen cubits; now the highest mountain in the globe, Dhawalagiri, a peak of the Himmaleh range in northern India, is five miles above the level of the sea: this will make a sphere of waters, enclosing the whole globe as its nucleus, of five miles in depth above the level of the sea, but in calculating the immense additional body of water thus burying the whole globe, deductions must be made for the mountains and the lands elevated above that level, which would con-

\* Platonis Dialogi. Ed. Forst. Phædon. § ξ.